

## CHRONOLOGY OF A FAMILY CASE

PHASE	PLEADINGS*	MOTIONS*	AMC's/GAL's OUT-OF-COURT ACTIVITY
PENDENTE LITE	Complaint for Dissolution or Application for Custody		
	Answer		
	Defendant's Cross-Complaint		
	Plaintiff's Answer to Defendant's Cross-Complaint	Temporary Alimony	
		Temporary Custody	
		Temporary Child Support	
		Counsel Fees	
		Temporary Visitation	
		Appoint Guardian <i>ad litem</i> and/or Attorney for the Minor Child	File review; Interviews; data-gathering; observations; home visits; mediations; consultations with FRC, Psych Evaluator, other sources; attend all court hearings affecting child's interests
		Exclusive Possession	Analyze safety issues; attempt to mediate; testify if called at hearing
		Refer to Family Relations	Participate if invited in Mediation/CRC—confer with FRC if investigation

		Psychological Evaluation	Arrange for eval; assist evaluator as requested; provide report to court
		Compel Discovery	Discovery if relevant to parenting issues (Interrogatories, Requests to Produce, Depositions)
		Contempt	Encourage/educate parents to comply with court orders
IF SETTLES	If divorce, Separation Agreement If custody action, Stipulation		Attend uncontested hearing; sign off on custody/visitation agreement; respond to Court's inquiry regarding child's best interests
IF TRIAL	AMC's Proposed Orders GAL's Recommendations		Attend trial; if AMC call witnesses, examine or cross-examine witnesses, present argument. If GAL, listen to all evidence, testify as to investigation and recommendations
JUDGMENT AFTER TRIAL	Memorandum of Decision		Read carefully; comply with orders directed to AMC/GAL
POST-JUDGMENT	Motion to Modify Custody and/or Visitation and/or Child Support Post-Judgment		
	Motion for Contempt Post-Judgment		Encourage/educate parents to comply with court orders
		Counsel Fees Post-Judgment	

		Appoint Guardian <i>ad litem</i> and/or Attorney for the Minor Child Post-Judgment	File review; Interviews; data-gathering; observations; home visits; mediations; consultations with FRC, Psych Evaluator, other sources; attend all court hearings affecting child's interests
		Refer to Family Relations Post-Judgment	Mediation/CRC/Investigation—confer with FRC Participate if invited in Mediation/CRC—confer with FRC if investigation
		Psychological Evaluation Post-Judgment	Arrange for eval; assist evaluator as requested; provide report to court
		Compel Discovery Post-Judgment	Discovery if relevant to parenting issues (Interrogatories, Requests to Produce, Depositions)
IF SETTLES			Attend hearing; sign off on custody/visitation agreement; respond to Court's inquiry regarding child's best interests
IF HEARING	AMC's Proposed Orders GAL's Recommendations		Attend hearing; if AMC call witnesses, examine or cross-examine witnesses, present argument. If GAL, listen to all evidence, testify as to investigation and recommendations

These are not necessarily the identical pleadings or motions in every case, nor will these motions necessarily all be filed or filed in this order. This is intended to provide a general representative chronology of a case for persons new to Family Law.